

Pembina Parish Lent Newsletter 2022



Dear friends, Spring has sprung! It seems as though there are signs of new life and hope around us each day as snow melts, grass greens, trees bud (or consider the possibility) and as water flows over the dam. This is why we so closely tie the Christian celebration of Easter with Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Spring feels like resurrection; like emerging from the darkness of the tomb, blinking away the sleep of winter, and stepping into new life. The cycle of death and resurrection speaks to us on many levels, not the least of which is the profound reminder that when things feel stagnant, hopeless, or death dealing, death will not have the last word. Ultimately, Spring and new life will emerge-even if not how we might expect. Certainly, Jesus surprised his followers!

Yet, even in the midst of all this Springy hope, there are frustrations. While we wish we could leave COVID behind completely, it remains. There is sweetness in emerging from our winter hibernation to renewed connections and activities, and there is the bitter reality that this disease is still with us in many ways. There is new hope that our water table is rising and sadness about global climate issues and conflicts. This time is bittersweet. Life is bittersweet. Just as life includes continuous cycles of birth and death, every moment has notes of bitter and sweet. The birth of a child, a graduation, a marriage, a new job, retirement and so on, all represent doors opening while others close. And perhaps it is in savouring the bitter and the sweet that we embrace the richness of life and are better able to meet one another in all of it. Like the best chocolate, too much sugar makes for a sickly sweet and often unsatisfying experience, while a little bitterness intensifies the chocolatey goodness.

May God meet you this Easter season with flavours of resurrection hope that are bittersweet in all the best ways. And might I suggest eating a bit of chocolate as you reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of the One who came to bring new life to us all.

Easter blessings,

Rev. Carrie

A Note from the Leadership Team



Spring is here with its promise of new beginnings. Add to this the easing of COVID restrictions and renewed moisture levels in our area and hope springs eternal!

With caution we are meeting together in worship and for shared learning opportunities. Interest groups can meet face-to-face and spring into action in ways that have been impossible for two years. Yes, new beginnings!

Our Parish Annual Meeting is a rite of Spring. It's an opportunity to review activities of the past year, to consider matters for which congregational approval is sought and to look to the future regarding budget and the naming of officers to fill church positions. This year's meeting was held March 13th and was attended by 50 people: 42 in-person, 8 online. During the meeting, appreciation was expressed for service provided by many people over the past year and welcome was given to those who were nominated and approved to join the slate of officers for 2022.

In that regard, with appreciation, we recognize Brian Saunderson as he completes his term on Leadership Team having served as chair through a most challenging time. We owe him much for his leadership, judgment and affability throughout his term. We now welcome Mary Ann McElroy to the Leadership Team and look forward to working with her.

If you're interested in the work of the Leadership Team, you can find the minutes of monthly meeting posted on the Pembina Parish website.

The members of the Leadership Team for 2022 are: Sharon Deceuninck-Chair, Nancy Penner- Treasurer, Kathryn Luger-Secretary, Karen Dyck-M&P Rep, Esther Rothenburger, Mary Ann McElroy, Rev Carrie Martens and Lynne Sanderson-Pastoral Charge Supervisor.

Lenten Book Study

This year during Lent a group of 14 members from our Community of Faith have been exploring the new United Church of Canada Lenten Study Book called *Lesser Evils :Daily Reflections on Seeking Wisdom*. The book, written by a variety of contributing authors, faith Leaders, and activists and edited by Alydia Smith offers a short scripture reading, meditation, reflection, and prayer for each day of Lent. The group has been meeting weekly at St. Paul's for discussions lead and facilitated by Rev. Carrie Martens. Group study has included a time for sharing what has 'struck us' about any of our readings, pondering our responses to the writers' perspectives, creative activities that make us think about people who have influenced us and some of our early learning and impressions on how to live, along with consideration of the study questions in the book. The overall theme is encouraging us to think about how we can draw from our faith and life experience to inform us and help us to wrestle with difficult decisions that may offer less than perfect options. This study is stimulating our thinking and is inspiring us to continue to explore how as Christians, we can seek and use wisdom, toward ethically choosing the 'lesser evil' as we face life's challenging dilemmas.

Marlene Holewka, on behalf of the Lenten Study Group



What is new (ish) in Rev. Carrie's Library.

All books in Carrie's
library are available
to borrow.



Valentines from Zion Calvin Kids

We were unable to be together as a group for Valentine's Day. So some supplies were quickly sent out and our Sunday School group created 16 homemade Valentine cards !!!! We mailed them out to the Congregation and some Community folks. They were very well received. I received several calls and compliments on the cards. The kids did a wonderful job of sharing "LOVE" this Valentines Day. Thank you to all who helped out.



Zion Calvin Lenten Project

Our little group is working on a fundraising project. We are collecting dimes to create a lake full of fish. The dimes serve as the scales on the fish. Each fish needing 40 dimes. We are learning about generosity, gratitude, sharing and **patience**. Attaching the scales is a little hard for little hands but the group is having a great time creating these fish. Proceeds from our project will be decided at a later date and announced on Easter Sunday. We are still collecting dimes and thanks to everyone who has contributed dimes so far.

Submitted by Karen Ching



No matter how long
the winter,
spring is sure to
follow

Soup and Pie Take Out

Friday April 22 - Pick up between 11am and 12:30 pm

No need to pre order this time, just drop in
There will be a choice of 3 soups (must be reheated), buns, cornmeal
muffins and an assortment of desserts



There will be gluten free and vegetarian options

Suggested donation of \$10

All proceeds for local Outreach projects



We are looking for 500ml or 1l plastic
cottage cheese, sour cream, yogurt containers with lids.

If you have any to spare
please leave them in the church kitchen.

Pastoral Care Note

If you or someone you love is in the hospital and/or in need of a pastoral care visit, Please call Laurie at the office or Rev. Carrie directly. We do not receive notification from the Spiritual Care department unless the patient instructs the chaplain to do so.

We are looking for a ***laptop with Windows 10 with an HDMI port*** to run the power point for the worship services at St. Paul's. If you have one to donate to the church, please let the office know.

Church Picnic on June 19th

(at this point an aspiration,
but hoping to become reality)

WIG invites anyone open to forming an ad hoc committee to put together a church picnic (including worship and singalong) to contact Laurie at the office. Many hands make light work!



Amber Bezte Wedding Shower
April 9th, Sanctuary



**Sunday worship services are recorded for everyone
to view online.**

The recorded video can be found on our

YouTube channel

‘Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge United Church’.

Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge United Church - YouTube

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

We give thanks to God for the creation of this land and we acknowledge that we live in Treaty 1 territory, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples and the homeland of the Metis nation. May we live with respect on this land and in peace and friendship with its people.

Calling all people interested in putting on a WIG hat!

Worship Interest Group (WIG) is looking for folks interested in joining us as we dream and scheme the worship life of Pembina Parish. The group does basic tasks like finding coverage when Rev. Carrie is away and organizing candles, but we also wonder and imagine what it means to worship as an intergenerational community in 2022 and how we can be shaped to live Christ’s love and justice in relation to each other and the world. We meet roughly once a month, and we’d love to have some folks who love worship join us.



Carers Circle

The carers circle, for those who are primary or active caregivers for loved ones who are ill or aging, will be meeting on the first Tuesday of every month (10-11am). Our next meeting will be on May 3, 2022.

There is no commitment required, all are welcome. We gather in room #1 on the right side of the Narthex at St. Paul's as you enter the front door.

St. Paul's Sunday School will be collecting donations until Easter Sunday for the following groups:

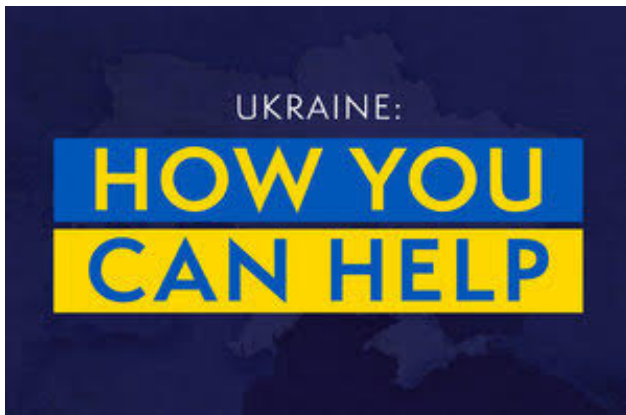
Genesis House

Mascara
Bobby pins, and hair elastics
Hand soap and lotion
Ladies' underwear in all sizes
Slippers
Bath salts

MANY HANDS

Beans
Tuna
Pasta and Pasta Sauces
Canned fruit & vegetables
Rice, Flour, Sugar
Cereal and Salt





You may feel helpless but we can help. You can donate to Pembina Parish, put in the memo -M&S Ukraine Appeal. The United Church through ACT Alliance is helping with the refugees during this conflict.

Ukraine Appeal update

The extreme violence in Ukraine continues to be beyond words, as is the case for so many around the world who confront armed conflict in their communities.

The United Church community has raised \$402,000 for humanitarian relief so far. Of that, \$240,000 has been sent via the ACT Alliance. Spanning 127 countries, the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance is the world's largest network of Protestant and Orthodox churches and agencies, including the United Church. Your generosity through Mission & Service has long supported ACT's humanitarian relief and advocacy efforts. Plans are being finalized for disbursement of \$162,000 and funds that continue to come in. To read more google United Church of Canada and search Acting Together for Ukraine.



Holy Week

Good Friday 10am- Interactive Storytelling event for families at St. Paul's

Message Laurie at the office if you would like to join in this interactive event, All families are welcome to join Rev. Carrie in these 7 storytelling stations taking us through Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter. This is not a drop-off event, parents/caregivers are asked to be active participants so that you and your children can learn to experience these stories in an age appropriate ways together. Yay foot washing!

Good Friday Service of Remembrance 7:30pm at St. Paul's

All are invited to a service of reflection on the seven last words of Jesus including readings, congregational song, ensemble music, and piano solo.

Easter Sunday Service at Zion Calvin and St. Paul's (9:30 and 11 am)

Our Easter Sunday service will include a joyous celebration of communion and at St. Paul's singing by our ensemble.

